

Appleby Archaeology Group

Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group which took place on Thursday January 11th 2018 in the Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby at 7.00pm.

Present

Committee members: 5

Members of the Group: Approximately 17

Martin Joyce
Mike Godfrey
Phyllis Rouston

Chairman
Treasurer
Carol Dougherty

Martin Railton
Richard Stevens

Fieldwork/Research
Secretary

Apologies for Absence

David Boote, Diana Monckton, Jen Callis, Chris & Ron Lyon.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 12/01/2017

The minutes had been circulated to all members with the winter Newsletter. There being no errors identified, the minutes were approved by the meeting.

1/2018 Matters arising from the notes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

2/2018 Chairman's Report

Martin Joyce began his Chairman's report by expressing his heartfelt thanks for all the unsung effort that members put into running the Group - organising lectures and summer visits, advertising events, setting up the supper-room (and washing up afterwards!), producing and distributing the Newsletter and so on and so on - and asked the meeting to give itself a round of applause. He expressed the sense of privilege he felt at chairing the AGM at the start of the group's 20th year of existence and said that he felt it marked a high watermark in its fortunes, with membership at an all-time high and the first phase of DigAppleby -the group's most ambitious project to date - successfully completed thanks to Martin Railton's professional leadership.

He went on to say that he had been pleased at the attendance at both outings and talks during 2017, some of which subjects had really been at the cutting edge of archaeology in the 21st century. Everything the Group had achieved had been published and was available to view on the website. Martin introduced the anniversary bookmark, which had been produced by newsletter editor and geologist David Boote and which was distributed to members at the meeting. It showed the 2000 + years timeline of the history of Appleby in concert with the 20 year history of Appleby Archaeology. He mentioned the successful upgrade to the website and IT system which had made it easier to administer the running of the Group.

However, Martin also said that the Group might also be at a crossroads because of the loss of a number of committee members. Mike Godfrey was standing down after 13 years as Treasurer and Martin thanked him for his substantial efforts. Carol Dougherty, who had been inspirational in thinking of new speakers, as well as using her knowledge of old documents to great advantage during the Dig Appleby Project, was also standing down and Heather Edwards had already done so. He thanked both for their unerring support over the years. Martin said that Richard would also be resigning as Secretary at the 2019 AGM and that almost everyone on the committee had been involved for many years. He therefore called on the membership to come forward to join the committee and help run the Group. No nominations had been received for Treasurer, and that position was essential to the continued survival of Appleby Archaeology.

3/2018 Secretary's Report

Richard said that he would keep his report short this year, since it was much the same every

year and the main thing is that it was properly recorded in the minutes.

He said that the Group had listened to an excellent series of speakers so far this year - after 20 years it was becoming slightly harder to find new speakers and new subjects but the committee did its best to keep everyone updated with the most significant archaeological stories from Cumbria and elsewhere. In 2017 there were Vikings in Cumwhitton, digging up the A1, some Sephulology (cross slabs to non-specialists), Genomes and digital archaeology. Altogether, a very wide range of subjects. There were also some exciting talks still to come during 2018.

The Dig Appleby Project, having been our first proper HLF funded exercise, was very successful and as well as a final excavation at Castle Bank, an excellent exhibition had been held in the Appleby TIC. Richard thanked Martin Railton and others for organising that event and said that Martin would round off the Project by highlighting the main findings later on in the evening.

He went on to say that the summer excursions were well supported as usual, he had managed to get to the Dacre visit himself and found that highly interesting, with Rachel Newman, as always, very well informed. He understood that the visit to Barton Church was also interesting, although the weather had put a few people off.

Richard offered his appreciation for David Boote's sterling work on the newsletter, which was continuing the high standard set by Martin Joyce during his tenure as editor.

As usual, committee meetings had been held 4 times a year. Reports of most of the talks had appeared in the newsletter and, as most members would be aware, in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald. The Herald still provided plenty of good coverage for the Group, and there had been a number of pieces on the Dig Appleby Project. Richard explained that he always attempted to keep the membership up to date with anything he thought might be of interest to them.

As ever, Martin Joyce had been taking care of the website and he had put in a great deal of work behind the scenes so that a lot of the day to day administration of the Group, such as memberships, generation of standard letters and posters etc. were now handled semi-automatically. At last it was possible to renew subscriptions online using Paypal, something that a number of people had been requesting for a while. Martin had also maintained the Dig Appleby Blog and although now quiescent, he felt sure that we would be maintaining that for some time.

Martin Railton still managed the Facebook page, which currently had over 150 followers, thanks mainly to the Dig Appleby Project.

Richard ended his report for 2017 by looking forward to our 21st year and by hoping that we could repeat the successes of the last 20.

4/2018 Treasurer's Report.

Mike Godfrey presented his last report as treasurer, having been in the role for 13 years. Going through the accounts he admitted that a test payment or one penny for the Paypal system had him puzzled for a while. One pound adrift was fairly easy to find but one penny, somewhat harder. The starting balance for the year had been £4797.34 and the closing balance, excluding any early subscriptions for 2018, was £649.36. Of the HLF grant of £9300, the Group had been asked to return the unused portion of £1511.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Chris Wilson, seconded by Phyllis Rouston and approved by the meeting.

5/2018 Fieldwork Report

Martin Railton gave the meeting a short update on the Dig Appleby Project, which had been completed in July 2017. He said that the full report had been sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund, as required by the terms of the Grant and was available to everyone on the Appleby

Archaeology website. He explained that the display at the Appleby TIC had been timed to take place during the CBA Festival of Archaeology, through which news of the event reached a wide audience. Feedback from the TIC indicated that there were a good number of visitors who had discovered the display through the Festival publicity.

Martin said that the display at the TIC had included the conserved vessel from Brackenber Moor and that in accordance with the terms of the grant from the Town Council, was now at the Penrith Museum.

The article on the Brackenber Moor Bronze Age excavation for the CWAAS Transactions had been submitted, although he'd had to severely edit the copy to comply with the 7000 word limit. The article will appear in the 2018 issue of the Transactions.

6/2018 Election of Officers and Committee members

The Treasurer having resigned at this meeting and no nominations having been received, the chair called for a volunteer from the membership to take on the role. Chris Wilson kindly volunteered his services. Both Martin Joyce and Richard Stevens offered themselves for re-election as Chair and Secretary respectively. Phyllis Rouston therefore proposed that these three officers should be elected, Martin Railton seconded the proposal and on a vote, the meeting approved

Other members of the present committee, namely Phyllis Rouston, Martin Railton, Trish Shaw and Mick Yates, all offered themselves for re-election. Acceptance was proposed by Carol Dougherty, seconded by Heather Edwards and approved by the meeting.

With vacancies now on the committee caused by the resignation of Mike Godfrey, Carol Dougherty and Heather Edwards, the chair called for other volunteers from the membership. Two members, Barbara Blenkinship and Adrian Waite kindly volunteered to join as from the date of the meeting.

7/2018 AOB

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.28pm.

Following the meeting, the attendees celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Group with glass of wine and slices of a delicious cake decorated in a suitably archaeological style.

Richard Stevens 17th January 2018